



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **NJ SHARING NETWORK RECEIVES AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

*Local non-profit organization acknowledged  
by National Health Information Awards*

**NEW PROVIDENCE, NJ** – NJ Sharing Network was recently recognized by the National Health Information Awards for two pieces that it uses to educate children and students about organ and tissue donation. NJ Sharing Network was among hundreds of local, state and national health-related organizations who submitted materials for the 2016 Awards. Now in its 23<sup>rd</sup> year, the awards program recognizes high quality consumer health information in a variety of categories.

The “You Have the Power to Save Lives” DVD and brochure received bronze for the Adolescent Audience (ages 13-20) category as a total health information program. The DVD and brochure is funded by Hearts for Emma, a partner fund of the NJ Sharing Network

Foundation and reaches tens of thousands of high school students during each academic year, raising awareness of the importance of organ and tissue donation.

The children's book, "Running for Riley," received bronze for the Child Audience (birth-12 years) category. The book was written by local New Providence author, Rebecca Perlman Coniglio. It teaches children about organ and tissue donation through the eyes of Rebecca's daughter Lily as she attends NJ Sharing Network's 5K Celebration of Life events and hears the story of Riley Kogen. Riley's Dance, co-founded by Mitch and Ali Kogen, was created to honor and remember the unique and special life of five year old Riley Kogen who gave the gift of life to two women who received her kidneys.

Riley's Dance is the first family fund of its kind under the NJ Sharing Network Foundation. In collaboration with NJ Sharing Network, Riley's Dance seeks to improve the quality of life for transplant recipients and those in need of organ transplants.

"Being recognized by the National Health Information Awards affirms the impact that our educational materials have on the general public," said Joe Roth, NJ Sharing Network President and CEO. "We reached over 20,000 students during the last academic year and are on pace to beat that number this year, thanks to our staff, volunteers, Hearts for Emma and Riley's Dance."

A panel of consumer health experts from across the nation judge the entries based on content, format, success in reaching the targeted audience and overall quality. The program is organized by the Health Information Resource Center (HIRC), a national clearinghouse for professionals who work in consumer health fields.

Today, there are over 122,000 people waiting for a transplant and 22 die each day while waiting for a transplant, but one donor can save eight lives and one tissue donor can enhance the lives of over 50 people. In New Jersey, there are 5,000 people on the waiting list and one person dies every three days waiting.

New Jersey residents can help save lives by registering as organ and tissue donors. To learn more, get involved and register as an organ and tissue donor, visit

[www.NJSharingNetwork.org](http://www.NJSharingNetwork.org).

#### About NJ Sharing Network

NJ Sharing Network is a non-profit, federally designated organization responsible for the recovery and placement of donated organs and tissue for New Jersey residents in need of life-saving transplants. NJ Sharing Network partners with Donate Life America, a not-for-profit national alliance that drives communities to increase their numbers of registered donors. NJ Sharing Network honors those who gave, pays tribute to those who received, offers hope to those who continue to wait, and remembers the lives lost while waiting for the gift of life.